

Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Frequently Asked Questions

What is the LWA program?

President Trump signed four Presidential Memorandums on Aug. 8, 2020, including one to offer enhanced unemployment insurance benefits of \$300 per week. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continue to provide guidance to each state for the proper administration of the benefit. The Department of Workforce Services will continue to communicate the guidelines of the program as they are finalized by these federal agencies.

Has Utah applied for and been approved for the LWA program?

Yes, Utah has applied for and has been initially approved to pay LWA benefits to eligible Utahns. Utah was one of the first states to apply for and receive an approval. You can read FEMA's press announcement here:

[fema.gov/news-release/20200817/fema-announces-lost-wages-grants-colorado-missouri-and-utah](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/20200817/fema-announces-lost-wages-grants-colorado-missouri-and-utah)

How much money will a person be eligible for each week and for how many weeks?

For the state of Utah, an eligible individual could receive a \$300 additional stimulus benefit in addition to their weekly unemployment benefit. Currently, Utah has only been approved for up to three weeks of payments, beginning July 26, 2020, through Aug. 15, 2020.

The LWA program has a limited budget, so the length of time the LWA program is available, the amount that is paid out, and to whom will be determined by the number of participating states, the number of payments that go out and how fast the limited federal funds are exhausted.

Do I need to submit an application for the LWA?

No, there is not an application for the LWA program. Currently, funding is limited to those who received an unemployment benefit for the time period of July 26, 2020, through Aug. 15, 2020, and are determined eligible for the additional \$300 LWA stimulus payment.

What time period does the LWA cover?

Currently, funding is limited to those who received an unemployment benefit for the time period of July 26, 2020, through Aug. 15, 2020, and are determined eligible for the additional \$300 LWA stimulus payment.

Who is eligible for the LWA?

The state must follow the federal guidelines. Eligible individuals include recipients whose weekly benefit amount is at least \$100 per week in the following unemployment-related assistance programs:

- Unemployment Insurance or Compensation (state benefits)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (13 week federal extension)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (federal self-employment unemployment)
- Extended Benefits

In addition, an individual must have attested that they are unemployed, or partially unemployed, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Who is ineligible for the LWA?

Primarily, the following individuals are not eligible for the LWA benefit:

- Individuals who did not receive an unemployment benefit in one of the above listed programs during the time period of July 26, 2020, through Aug. 15, 2020
- Individuals whose weekly benefit amount is less than \$100 in one of the above listed programs during the time period of July 26, 2020, through Aug. 15, 2020
- Individuals who did not lose, or become partially unemployed, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic



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If I am eligible, when will I receive the LWA benefit?

While Utah has applied for and been initially approved for the benefit, we continue to try to understand the LWA program and the new, temporary federal funding stream.

We understand the benefit is critical to many, but we also want to make sure the LWA payment is done accurately to avoid any overpayments. We are seeking further guidance and clarification from the DOL and FEMA, as well as implementing system programming to make the payment.

We expect the payments will take up to four weeks for issuance, but benefits will be paid retroactively for those determined eligible.